

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LIVELOCK PREVENTION IN A
MULTIPROCESSOR SYSTEM

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a multiprocessor system using snooping protocols, system command conflicts are
5 prevented by comparing processor commands with prior snoops within a specified time defined
window. A determination is then made as to whether a command issued by a given processor is
likely to cause a system conflict with another command issued within said specified time defined
window. If so, the time of execution of any such snoop command determined as being likely to
cause a system conflict is delayed. This approach uses address bus arbitration rules to prevent
10 system livelocks due to both coherency and resource conflicts.